

Delta Operations for Salmonids and Sturgeon (DOSS) Group
Conference call: 02/25/11 at 1:30 p.m.

Objective: Provide advice to the Water Operations Management Team (WOMT) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on measures to reduce adverse effects from Delta operations of the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project on salmonids and green sturgeon. DOSS will coordinate the work of other technical teams. DOSS notes and advice can be found at: <http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/ocap/htm>

DWR: Andy Chu, Mike Ford, Cynthia LeDoux-Bloom, Angela Llaban

FWS: Nick Hindman

NMFS: Barbara Rocco, Bruce Oppenheim, Barb Byrne, Jeff Stuart, Lauren Ledesma

Reclamation: Thuy Washburn, John Hannon

DFG, SWRCB, EPA: not present

DOSS has added Ann Snyder from SWRCB to the DOSS e-mail contact list. The draft notes from Tuesday, 2/22/11 were circulated for comment.

Agenda: The purpose of this special meeting was to revisit and analyze the juvenile loss density because the first and second stage triggers were met this past week and to consider any additional instructions to DWR regarding flows.

Fish Monitoring: The following table presents the remaining fish monitoring data not available on 2/22/11.

Location	Chippis Is. Midwater Trawl	Sacramento Kodiak Trawl	Mossdale Kodiak Trawl	Beach Seines	Knights Landing RST	Tisdale Weir RST	Moulton Weir RST	Deer/Mil l Creeks RST
Sample Date	2/14, 2/16, 2/18	2/14, 2/16/ 2/18	2/14, 2/16	2/15, 2/16, 2/17	2/16- 2/23			
Total Catch	26	19	No data	417	848			
FR	0	2		313	777			
LFR	0	0		0	0			
WR	0	0		2	4			
SR	1	1		100	62			
(Ad-clips)	1	0		1	2			
DS	11	0		1	0			
LFS	0	0		0	0			
SPTL	0	0		0	0			
SH (ad-clip)	10	16		0	2			
SH (natural)	3	0		0	1			
Water Temp. (avg. °F)	50.9	49.3	51.4	49.5	49.9			
Flows (avg. cfs)					15,294			
Turbidity (avg. NTU)					22.5			

FR/SR Avg. CPUE					45.9			
WR/LFR Avg. CPUE					0.25			

Key: FR = Fall run; LFR = Late-fall run; SR = Spring run; WR = Winter run; SH = Steelhead; DS = Delta smelt; LFS = Longfin smelt; SPTL = Splittail.

Older juvenile Chinook loss and loss density 2/14/11–2/21/11

SWP & CVP OLDER JUVENILE* CHINOOK LOSS & LOSS DENSITY 02/14/2011 through 02/24/2011				
Date	OLDER JUVENILE LOSS** (# fish)			Combined Older Juv Loss Density (fish/TAF)
	SWP	CVP	Combined	
02/14/2011	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
02/15/2011	18.06	0.00	18.06	1.02
02/16/2011	18.04	0.00	18.04	1.01
02/17/2011	8.65	3.19	11.84	0.65
02/18/2011	80.03	0.00	80.03	4.63
02/19/2011	136.82	3.19	140.01	7.45
02/20/2011	115.50	3.19	118.69	6.07
02/21/2011	177.66	15.95	193.61	9.69
02/22/2011				11.59
02/23/2011				4.92
02/24/2011				10.02
Data for 2/22 through 2/24 for SWP and CVP were not provided				
Preliminary, subject to revision				
*Older juveniles defined as all Chinook above the minimum winter run length (Delta Model)				
**Loss data obtained from DFG, Stockton				

Operations

Flows are still high from recent storm events; losses at the SWP are still high over the 5-day period since 2/22/11. OMR flows remain no more negative than -2,500 cfs. According to the BiOp, there must be 3 consecutive days of loss density below a trigger density before OMR flows can be adjusted back up (i.e., less negative). Based on the DOSS call of 2/22/11, the following DOSS advice and subsequent NMFS determination were made:

DOSS Advice from the 2/22/2011 call

On Tuesday, 2/22/2011, DOSS confirmed that the first and second stage levels of the first trigger had been exceeded. The recent storm event had caused an increase in juvenile salmon emigration through the Delta. The DOSS advice to WOMT and NMFS is that CVP/SWP operates at reduced export rates to meet the OMR flow limit of no more negative than -2,500 cfs for at least 5 days, from 2/22/2011 through 2/26/2011, pursuant to RPA action IV.2.3 in the NMFS BiOp. Fish losses at the CVP/SWP facilities are expected to decline at less negative OMR flows and provide enough time for older juvenile salmonids to find their way out of the interior Delta. A follow-up DOSS call was scheduled on Friday, 2/25/2011, to review the export, OMR flow, and fish loss data and determine if further actions are warranted.

NMFS Determination

NMFS accepts the advice from DOSS and determines that CVP/SWP shall operate to reduce exports in order to meet the OMR flows of no more negative than -2,500 cfs from Tuesday, 2/22/2011, through Saturday, 2/26/2011. Beginning with the first full 5-day running average of OMR flows under adjusted operations (which will average OMR flows from 2/22 through 2/26), until there is some relaxation of the OMR flow requirement, the 5-day running average shall be no more than 25% more negative than -2,500 cfs.

During the 5-day period, 3 consecutive days, in which the combined fish loss density is below an action trigger, are required before the OMR flow reductions can be relaxed. Starting on day 3 of the export reduction (i.e., 2/24/2011), the combined fish loss density shall be below the action trigger (i.e., 6.64 fish/TAF) for the remaining 3 days (i.e., 2/24, 2/25, and 2/26) in order to relax the OMR flow on day 6 (i.e., 2/27). If exceedance of the trigger during the last 3 days of the 5-day period occurs, the OMR flow action continues until there are 3 consecutive days below the fish loss density trigger.

If the combined fish loss density drops to below 6.64 but above 3.32 fish/TAF on 2/24, 2/25, and 2/26, the CVP/SWP export may increase on 2/27 to meet the OMR flow limit of no more negative than -3,500 cfs.

If the combined fish loss density drops to below 3.32 fish/TAF on 2/24, 2/25, and 2/26, the CVP/SWP export may increase on 2/27 to meet the OMR flow limit of no more negative than -5,000 cfs.

NMFS will notify DWR only if further actions are warranted on Sunday 2/27/2011.

Based on monitoring data from the past 5 days, there were no 3 consecutive days of fish loss density below a density trigger; therefore, the 5-day running average OMR of no more negative than -2,500 cfs must continue. DOSS will reevaluate the loss density again on Monday, 2/28/11, to determine whether there are 3 consecutive days of fish loss density below an OMR trigger beginning today, 2/25/11. NMFS will follow up with DWR after a determination is made on Monday regarding the loss density. USFWS supports NMFS' decision to reevaluate on Monday 2/28. No formal meeting will be necessary on 2/28; loss data from DFG will be reviewed by the DOSS leaders.

DOSS advice to WOMT and NMFS: DOSS reassessed whether the loss density was low enough for DWR to increase pumping on Sunday 2/27/11. Because the loss density was not below the triggers for 3 consecutive days, NMFS determination is to keep OMR flows at no more negative than -2,500 cfs until loss density can be reevaluated on Monday, 2/28/11.

Next Meeting: Conference call, 3/1/11 at 9:00 a.m.